COTTON CHATS

DRAPER COMPANY, HOPEDALE, MASS.

COTTON CHATS

DRAPER COMPANY HOPEDALE MASS.

NO. 122. DECEMBER, 1912.

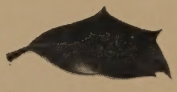
THE YEAR 1912

leaves the cotton mills of this country in a more prosperous condition than it found them. With few exceptions they are at work on orders placed at prices which will show a handsome profit.

It would be a rash individual who would undertake to forecast the conditions which will prevail one year from now. Meantime certain business factors are self evident. First, with general prosperity there is a shortage of labor in this country, and we are therefore dependent upon immigrants to fill the ultimate vacancies; second, with their lack of experience, it is imperative that improvements in labor saving machinery keep pace with the growth of the country, so that operatives may produce more per capita, and at the same time be able to earn the wages necessary to meet the better living conditions of the United States, as compared with those of other countries; third, it is to the mutual advantage of manufacturers and operatives that the effectiveness of the operatives be increased by improvements in machinery.

In our own Foundry Department we have had an object lesson on this subject. About twenty years ago, we began experiments with moulding machines, with a view of improving the quality and reducing the cost of our castings. After a trial of various types of machines over a period of several years, we found one that would average to increase the output per moulder fifty to sixty per cent., while making castings much more uniform than could be made by our best moulders in the old way; furthermore, the moulding machines could be operated by able bodied laborers of average intelligence who had never seen the inside of a foundry. A few weeks trial of these operatives on moulding machines, and in learning to pour the melted iron, transformed them into producers of better work and more of it than made by journeymen moulders of many years' experience.

Our Northrop Loom business came along just as these facts had been demonstrated and our loom patterns were to a large extent adapted to the moulding machine system from the start; today over ninety per cent. of our tonnage in loom castings is the product of moulding machines and if we desired to go back to the old method of hand moulding we doubt if we could obtain the necessary moulders. With our foundry melting 125 tons or more per day we have less old-time journeymen moulders than when the output was but 10 tons per day.



ALONG SIMILAR LINES,

the evolution of cotton manufacturing in the South since about 1895 has been largely due to the invention and introduction of the Northrop Loom. At that time there were but few skilled weavers in Southern territory and no surplus. The Northrop Loom was an unknown quantity except as demonstrated in our experimental plant in Hopedale.

With faith in our company, in the Northrop Automatic Loom, and in the quality of Southern men and women, a few farsighted men recognized their opportunity and organized and equipped what have developed into some of the largest and most prosperous cotton mills of the country. Weavers with no previous experience whatever within a few weeks operated successfully two or more times as many Northrop Looms as the old time weavers on similar fabrics on common looms.

From this time there was a development of cotton manufacturing in the South which finally absorbed all the available labor.

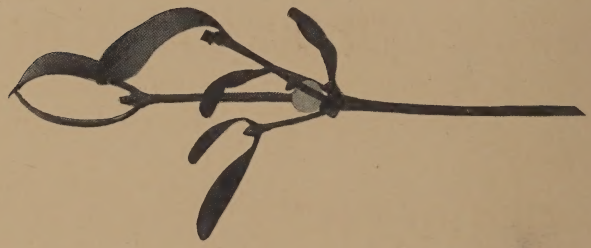
TODAY

we are confronted by another situation. With no surplus labor in the country operatives of every class are looking for better openings, and natives of other countries speaking other languages are the principal source of supply. Under such conditions automatic machines that enable operatives to move up all along the line are a benefit to the individuals of each grade, and to the country at large.

DRAPER COMPANY SERVICE

was inaugurated to take care of Draper Company customers, present and prospective.

What Can We Do For You in 1913?



In Closing This Year's Cotton Chats

We Wish Our Readers One and All a Happy and Prosperous New Year.